

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2, 5-14, 19-22, 28, 29, and 44-58 were previously pending in the application. Claims 8, 11, 14, 46, 48, 51, 53, and 58 are amended, and claims 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 44, 45, 47, 49, 50, 52, 54, 55, and 57 are cancelled herein. Assuming entry of this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 11, 14, 19-22, 28, 29, 46, 48, 51, 53, 56, and 58 are now pending. The Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

Art Rejections

In paragraph 2 of the office action, the Examiner rejected claims 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 44, 45, 47-50, 52-55, 57, and 58 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,628,768 ("Ramaswamy") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,640,987 ("Tsukada"). In paragraph 3, the Examiner indicated that claims 8, 11, 14, 46, 51, and 56 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In paragraph 4, the Examiner allowed claims 1, 2, 5, 19-22, 28, and 29.

For the following reasons, the Applicant submits that all of the pending claims are allowable over the cited references.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 19-22, 28, and 29

Claims 1, 2, 5, 19-22, 28, and 29 have all been allowed.

Claim 8

Claim 8 is amended herein to be in independent form, including the recitations of previously-pending, now-cancelled claims 6 and 7. Since the Examiner indicated that previously-pending claim 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that amended claim 8 is allowable over the cited references.

Claim 11

Claim 11 is amended herein to be in independent form, including the recitations of previously-pending, now-cancelled claims 9 and 10. Since the Examiner indicated that previously-pending claim 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that amended claim 11 is allowable over the cited references.

Claim 14

Claim 14 is amended herein to be in independent form, including the recitations of previously-pending, now-cancelled claims 12 and 13. Since the Examiner indicated that previously-pending claim 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that amended claim 14 is allowable over the cited references.

Claims 46 and 48

Claim 46 is amended herein to be in independent form, including the recitations of previously-pending, now-cancelled claims 44 and 45. Since the Examiner indicated that previously-pending claim 46 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that amended claim 46 is allowable over the cited references.

Since claim 48 depends from claim 46, it is further submitted that claim 46 is also allowable over the cited references.

Claims 51 and 53

Claim 51 is amended herein to be in independent form, including the recitations of previously-pending, now-cancelled claims 49 and 50. Since the Examiner indicated that previously-pending claim 51 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that amended claim 51 is allowable over the cited references.

Since claim 53 depends from claim 51, it is further submitted that claim 53 is also allowable over the cited references.

Claims 56 and 58

Claim 56 is amended herein to be in independent form, including the recitations of previously-pending, now-cancelled claims 54 and 55. Since the Examiner indicated that previously-pending claim 56 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that amended claim 56 is allowable over the cited references.

Since claim 58 depends from claim 56, it is further submitted that claim 58 is also allowable over the cited references.

Conclusion

The Applicant submits therefore that the rejections of claims under Section 103 have been overcome.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant believes that the now-pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicant believes that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, and early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Fees

During the pendency of this application, the Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment of any filing fees for presentation of extra claims under 37 CFR 1.16 and any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17 or credit any overpayment to Mendelsohn, Drucker, & Associates, P.C. Deposit Account No. 50-0782.

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to treat any concurrent or future reply, requiring a petition for extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 for its timely submission, as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time if not submitted with the reply.

Respectfully submitted,

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